



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

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SOMETIMES GOOD THINGS CAN COME FROM BAD IDEAS *Supervisor Biddle statement on proposed Milwaukee streetcar*

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr. expressed optimism today at the prospect of black male employment opportunities that could come from the Milwaukee Streetcar project:

“As a County Supervisor, I came out early on as a staunch opponent of the downtown streetcar. I, along with many of my colleagues from different ideological spectrums, said it was an irresponsible use of federal dollars that would only benefit a small segment of our population. However, with the recent reports of the dismal black male unemployment picture here in Milwaukee, I hope this project can be used as an opportunity to put the black men in our community back to work.

“We need to work collaboratively. Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee should come together to make transportation a priority for all of our residents, rather than just tourists in our downtown. It is my hope that – whether it’s a streetcar, light rail, or another project – we can expand this service to serve inner city neighborhoods on both the north and south sides to create jobs and increase property values in economically depressed areas. These neighborhoods are suffering; they need better access to opportunities and a higher quality of life.

“Our elected leaders must also continue the fight to identify dedicated funding – such as a sales tax – to save the transit system, reduce property taxes and increase employment for black men in Milwaukee. We need better transit options to increase access to job opportunities both within Milwaukee County and across county lines.

“We are in a jobs crisis in Milwaukee. Local government leaders must boldly and creatively use public infrastructure projects to train and employ black men. While I continue to vehemently disagree with moving forward on the proposed streetcar, if it reaches the construction stage, we must make the best of it and make sure that black males from Milwaukee are employed to help build, maintain and operate it. I’m still disgusted by this goofy streetcar, but I will support any project that creates sustainable employment opportunities in our community.”

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